Ruby Secretly Tapes How He Shot Oswald

P WK 1/3/68

By Art Berman
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 2—Jack Ruby, in his dying days, reportedly has broken through Dallas police security again, this time to secretly tape record a denial of any conspiracy in the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald.

The Los Angeles Times has received information that the recording, purportedly the only one ever made of Ruby's own story, was arranged by Capitol Records. The Hollywood record firm is expected to announce Tuesday in New York:

• The recording, in which Ruby implies the slaying occurred during an emotion-triggered blackout, was made within the last few weeks at Parkland Hospital, Dallas, where Ruby is dying of cancer.

• An unwitting Dallas policeman was in the hospital room and two were outside the door when the recording was made.

• The tape recorder was hidden in an attache case.

• The policeman did not know what was happening because Ruby's brother, Earl, told Ruby in Yiddish:

"Jack, in the briefcase, the tape recorder is hidden here."

Ruby, speaking haltingly in English, gave a lucid account of the events of Nov. 24, 1963

See RUBY, A3, Col. 1

—two days after Oswald killed President John F. Kennedy.

On that day, Ruby walked past police guards and into the basement of Dallas City Hall. Then, as millions of television viewers watched Oswald being transferred to the county jail, Ruby stepped forward and fatally shot him.

Coincidence, He Says

Ruby insisted in the recorded interview that it was purely a coincidence, partly caused by his making an illegal turn into a parking lot, that brought him into the City Hall at the instant Oswald was being transferred.

". . . The difference in meeting this fate was 30 seconds one way or the other," Ruby lamented.

"All I did is walk down there, down to the bottom of the ramp and that's when the incident happened—at the bottom of the ramp," Ruby said in the recorded interview.

". . . It happened in such a blur that . . . before I knew it I was down on the ground. The officers had me on the ground."

Someone in the hospital room can be heard asking, "did you realize you had done anything?"

"Well," Ruby replied, "really it happened so fast and everything else I can't recall what happened from the time I came to the bottom of the ramp until the police officers had me on the ground."

Question: "Did you ever know Oswald before?"

Ruby: "Never have known him or seen him before."

Question: "Did you ever planned (SIC) anything like this?"

Ruby: "I was so emotionally upset for three days."

Question: "Is there any truth at all to the stories that Oswald had been in your club?"

Ruby: "None whatsoever. It's a fabrication."

Question: "Did you know when Oswald was going to be moved, Jack?"

Ruby: "He was supposed to be moved at 10 o'clock."

To Be Released Soon

(It was widely known in Dallas that Oswald was supposed to have been moved at 10 a.m., but the actual transfer—and shooting—did not occur until 11:20 a.m.)

The 3-minute, 55-second interview with Ruby will be on a Capitol record titled "The Controversy, the Death, the Warren Report," which is scheduled for release Jan. 6. The interview is copyright 1967 by Alskog, Inc., which produced the documentary record.

The recording was made after those close to Ruby reportedly became convinced that his critical illness and hospitalization have brought him an unexpected period of lucidity.

Ruby reportedly has said that he never slept well during three years under constant guard in a lighted, windowless cell. During that period, he often was described as mentally confused.

Now, despite constant pain, Ruby supposedly has been able to sleep better and has clarified his thoughts. He reportedly has attributed this to the hospital room's windows, which enable him to tell night from day.